

Healthcare Reform: Prescription Drugs

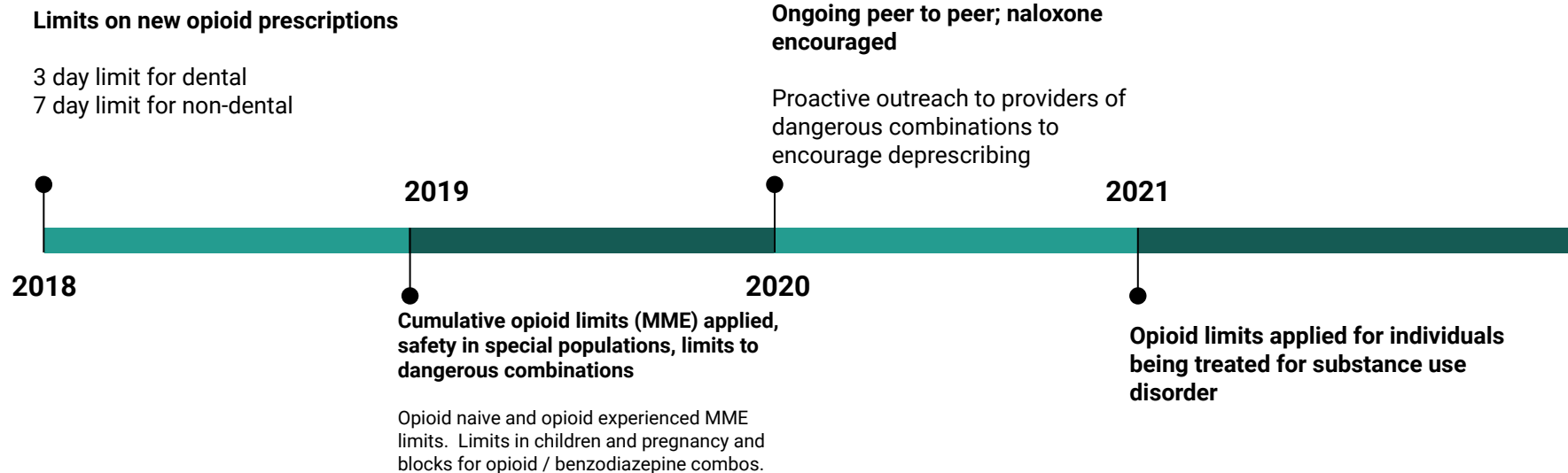
Health & Human Services Interim Committee
May 18, 2022

Driving Value with Medicaid

Pharmacy Case Studies

Comprehensive Opioid
Intervention

From 2013 to 2015, Utah ranked 7th in the nation for drug overdose deaths.
Utah Medicaid began rolling out its comprehensive opioid policy in 2018.



Comprehensive Opioid Intervention

Opioid Intervention Outcomes

Utah Medicaid watched a dramatic shift in opioid prescribing behaviors:

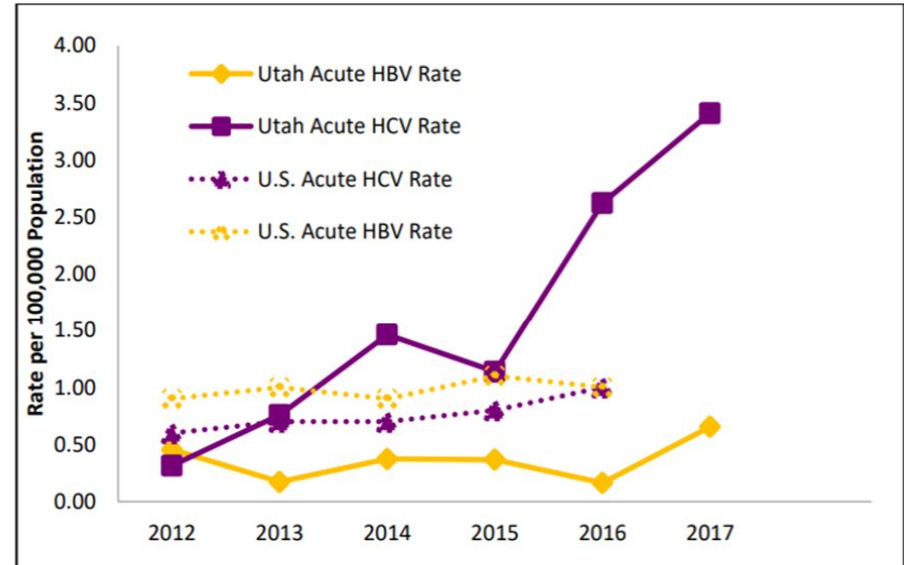
- Since 2018, the Medicaid adult population has grown by 55% but the total opioid dispensed has decreased by 39%
- Chronic opioid use, which leads to opioid use disorder, harm, and/or death, has decreased by 42%
- The use of dangerous combinations, the #1 leading cause of opioid-related deaths, has decreased by 29%

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Pharmacy Case Studies

Hepatitis C Adherence
Intervention

- Hepatitis C: “the silent killer”
- 2014- CURE for hepatitis C with 8-12 weeks of antiviral medicine
- 2015- Utah implemented increased surveillance for HCV
- 2020- Medicaid launched a hepatitis C adherence program



*Acute HCV reporting criteria changed in 2017 to include confirmed and probable cases. Before 2017, only confirmed cases were included.

Hepatitis C Adherence Program Background

Hepatitis C Outcomes

FFS Medicaid members treated (CY 2021):

- 221 individuals

Results:

- Medication compliance **89.8%** vs 80.9% at baseline (2019)

Costs & Savings

Annual pharmacy costs to administer the program = \$23,000

Projected savings (2021) from repeat medication costs =
\$333,000 to \$1,455,000*

*Other healthcare costs for end stage liver disease, liver cancer, liver transplant are not included

Recommendations

- Evaluate non-opioid / non-pharmacologic treatment options for chronic pain and consider appropriating funding for these options
 - Some states cover benefits like expanded physical therapy visits, massage therapy, acupuncture, and other items
- Identify treatable diseases / conditions and provide funding resources aimed at improving medication adherence in these target populations (e.g., hypertension, depression, or diabetes)

Thank you!

Jennifer Strohecker

jstrohecker@utah.gov / 385-280-3659